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Outline of the Genealogy of the first four Generations of the Branner Family in Virginia.

BY JOHN CASPER BRANNER.

Reprinted from the SHENANDOAH VALLEY, New Market, Va., Dec. 1, 1904.

Herewith is given an outline of the genealogy of the Branner family of Virginia. A full history and genealogy is in preparation, and it is expected that it will be published some time during the year 1905. The present outline is published principally for the purpose of obtaining fuller information regarding certain branches of the family, and especially concerning Casper Branner and his wife Catherine of the first generation and concerning their ancestors.

Communications upon these subjects may be addressed to J. C. Branner, Stanford University, California.

Much valuable aid has been given by nearly every one to whom letters of inquiry have been sent, but special thanks for help are due Miss Minnie Fugh, of Broadway, and Miss Anna C. Brunner, of Forestville, Va. The most valuable papers and books have been contributed by Mrs. Elizabeth Brunner and her family near Timberville.

Two branches of the family are not given further than the second generation; these are the descendants of Michael Brunner and his wife Christina Arey, and of Christina Brunner who married Thomas Hinton, junior. The descendants of Michael Brunner are omitted because he moved to Tennessee about 1799 and none of his many descendants ever settled in this part of Virginia. Nothing is given concerning the descendants of Thos. Hinton and Christina Brunner, because nothing is known of them.

FIRST GENERATION.

CASPER BRANNER, born about 1729; died prior to Oct. 25, 1792; married

CATHERINE (ZIRKLE?) who died after Sep 9, 1799.

Casper Branner received a grant of land from Lord Fairfax which is dated August 4, 1760. The land is south of the town of Forestville, and a part of it is still in possession of the family.

No document has been found in Casper Branner's name earlier than this Fairfax deed. There is one legend in the family that they came to what is now Shenandoah county from South River; another legend is that they came to Virginia from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

The records have been examined in the county clerk's office at Lancaster, Pa., and at Spotsylvania Court House, Orange, Staunton, Harrisonburg, and Woodstock Va., without anything definite in regard to their earlier history having been found. In old signatures in German script the name is almost invariably spelled Brenner; while the early official documents have it Branner.

It will be noted that there is a question as to whether Casper Branner's wife's maiden name was Zirkle. Professor Milton Zirkle, of Forestville, to whom the writer is much indebted, suggests that she was a sister of Michael Zirkle; but so far as is known there is no documentary evidence bearing on the subject.

The oldest family Bible that has been found thus far was that of the elder son John Branner, of the second generation. This formerly belonged to Mrs. Sarah Pence Myers at Forestville, his grand-daughter. Unfortunately the family record, if it ever contained one, has been removed, and it is not known what became of it.

It may be added that all the old books, Bibles, hymn-books, prayer-books, etc., are in the German language—not Dutch as is often supposed.

SECOND GENERATION.

Children of Casper Branner.

JOHN BRANNER, b. Aug. 12, 1752; d. Apr. 20, 1837; m. **Catherine Harpine,** b. April 3, 1753; d. January 1, 1817.

They lived on the original Fairfax grant made to his father, the place of the late Casper Branner, near Forestville. They are both buried in the Solomon's churchyard. On the tombstone her name is spelled Chatarina Brenner. They are the ancestors of all the Virginia Branners.

CHRISTINA BRANNER, b. ?; d. ?; m. **Thomas Hinton, Jr.**

All trace of this branch of the family has been lost. The name is given as Hinton in a deed dated Sept. 10, 1799, but an old note found among family papers has the signature spelled Henton. It seems that they went to Ohio between 1792 and 1805, but it is not known to what county.

MICHAEL BRANNER, b. May 12, 1764; d. March 19, 1839; m. **Christina Arey** November 29, 1785. She was born in Virginia Feb. — 1764; d. in Ga., Feb. 13, 1857.

They went to East Tennessee about 1799 and settled on the Frenchbroad river at Dandridge, Jefferson co., where they brought up a large family of children.

Christina Arey was the daughter of Godlip (Gottlieb) Arey who was the half brother of Wm. Arey who married Polly Stowers, of Philip Arey who married Elizabeth Zirkle, of Susan Arey who married Reuben Long, of Polly Arey who married Henry Moyers and of George Arey who married Mary Koogler.

At present nothing is known of the ancestors or other members of the family of Godlip (or Gottlieb) Arey, except that Christina Arey's sister Elizabeth married Philip Long—the one who was born Dec. 18, 1742, and died Feb. 5, 1826. It also seems that Godlip Arey was twice married, that his daughters Elizabeth and Christina were by his first wife, and that he moved west after his second marriage; just where he went is not known.

ELIZABETH BRANNER, b. Aug. 25, 1766; died Mar. 8, 1794, married **Abraham Harpine,** b. Dec. 11, 1764; d. January 22, 1809.

They are said to have lived near what is now called Moore's Store, Shenandoah county, Va. The name appears to have been *Herpein* originally; it is spelled both Herpein and Herpine in the diary of Rev. Paul Henkel, the manuscript of which I have been kindly permitted to examine by Messrs. Ambrose L. and Elon O. Henkel, of New Market, Va.

THIRD GENERATION.

Children of John Branner.

CASPER BRANNER, b. January 28, 1774; d. July 7, 1828; married

EVE R. KNUPP, b. September 15, 1782; d. June 1, 1851.

She is sometimes spoken of as Effy Knopp in notes and documents. They lived in Shenandoah county near Broadway.

Children of Elizabeth Branner and Abraham Harpine.

LYDIA HARPINE, b. April 13, 1785; d. May 6, 1863, married

GEORGE EASTERLY, JR., b. Dec. 20, 1781; d. March 29, 1850.

He was for 30 years a Lutheran clergyman. They settled in Green county, Tenn.; both are buried in St. James churchyard in that county.

JONATHAN HARPINE, b. May 11, 1789; d. May 7, 1852; married

SUSANNA LINDAMOOD, b. — 1782, d. July 15, 1859.

CATHERINE HARPINE, b. Apr. 30, 1791, d. April 11, 1869, married

JOSEPH NEHS

This family lived for some time in Green county, Tenn., they are said to have gone from there to Missouri between 1830 and 1835. All further trace of them has been lost.

PHILIP HARPINE, b. —?, d. Jan. —?; married

EVE —?, b. —?; d. Jan. 18, 1840.

Nothing is known of this branch.

FOURTH GENERATION.

Children of Casper Branner.

Mary Branner, b. Aug. 12, 1807, d. May 1, 1877; m. John Archart b. Mar. 6, 1802, d. Dec. 13, 1873. They lived near Timberville and had nine children.

Elizabeth Brunner, b. Aug. 14, 1807; d. June 3, 1877; m. John Brunner. She was a twin sister of Mary. They lived two miles from Timberville; they had no children.

George Brunner, b. April, 1810; d. March 17, 1861; m. Rebecca Chrisman, b. Aug. 1, 1814; d. May 14, 1876. They had eight children.

Rebecca Brunner, b. July 14, 1817; d. Sept. 14, 1857; m. Nason Barr, b. June 23, 1808; d. April 13, 1875. They had five children; they are buried at Rader's Church.

PHILIP BRANNER, b. April 15, 1775; d. July 7, 1828; married

ELIZABETH ARCHART, b. 1767; d. July 21, 1840.

Philip is buried in Rader's churchyard.

Children of Philip Branner.

Philip Brunner, b.? m. Mary Melize, b.? They had one son Jonathan, who died near Middletown, Ind.

Catherine Branner, b. Jan. 15, 1794; d.? m. Adam Neff, b.? They had two children.

Sarah Brunner, b. Dec. 21, 1795; d. May 14, 1842, m. John Bible, b. Oct. 1, 1790; d. Dec. 29, 1853. They had eight (?) children of whom information is lacking; one is buried at Rader's church.

John Brunner, b. Aug. 4, 1799; d. Feb. 16, 1860; m. Elizabeth Branner, b. Aug. 14, 1807, d. June 3, 1877. No children; both buried at Rader's church.

Jonathan Brunner, b. Feb. ? 1811; d. June 13, 1857? m. Margaret Showalter, b. April 14, 1808. They lived near Broadway; two children.

Magdalene Brunner, b.? d. Feb. 11, 1835; m. Jacob Neff, b.? d.? They had two children, John and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Brunner, b. Feb. 2, 1803; d. June 30, 1863; m. Joseph Yount, b. Jan. 10, 1790, d. Jan. 18, 1863. They are buried at Aloue, Rockbridge county, Va.; they had four children.

Mary Brunner, b. Oct. 2, 1804, d. Dec. 24, 1876; m. David Armentrout, b. Sept. 10, 1809; d. Aug. 3, 1867. Lived on Dry Fork, Va.; they had five children.

Michael Brunner, b. Sept. 8, 1807; d. May 5, 1881; m. Lydia Showalter, b. April 20, 1810, d. Feb. 14, 1884. They lived two miles west of Broadway and had ten children.

MARIA MAGDALENA BRANNER, b. Dec. 19, 1776; d. Mar. 4, 1852; married

ABRAHAM JONES, b. Aug. 29, 1777; d. —— 1861.

They are buried at Solomon's churchyard near Forestville, Va.

Children of Maria Magdalena Brunner and Abraham Jones.

John Jones m. Mary Fansler.
Elizabeth Jones m. Adam Anles.
Sarah Jones m. Jacob Miller.
Thomas Jones m. — Bowers; m. Ryman.
Catherine Jones m. Jacob Bowman.
Phoebe Jones m. Michael Miller.
Polly Jones m. Moses Getz.
Elnora Jones did not marry.
Anna Jones m. Nase Keslin.
Even Jones m. Sarah Bowers; m. Rebecca Goode.

CHRISTINA BRANNER, b. April 3, 1778; d. —— ? married

ADAM RINEHART, b. ?, d. ?

They moved to —— ? Ohio in 1830.

Children of Christina Brunner and Adam Rinehart.

Emmanuel Rinehart m. Rebecca Snooker.
Jonathan Rinehart died single.
Lydia Rinehart m. George W. Watkins. In April, 1845, they were living in Miami county, Ohio; nothing is known of their later history.
Adam Rinehart m. Sarah ——? In 1844 they were living in Montgomery county, Ohio.
Mary Rinehart m. Christian Swartz; they went to Missouri.
Catherine Rinehart m. Joseph Needles; in 1842 they were living in Miami county, Ohio.
Sarah Rinehart m. Adam Zerfas; in 1842 they were living in Montgomery county, Indiana (or Ohio?)

MARIA BRANNER, b. Dec. 3, 1779; d —— ? married

HENRY LEONARD, April 17, 1798.

Nothing is known of this family; the date of birth is taken from Rader's church record, and the date of marriage was found in the manuscript diary of Rev. Paul Henkel.

SARAH BRANNER, b. June 20, 1786; d. June 26, 1865; married

JOHN PENCE, b. Jan. 4, 1780; d. Oct. 26, 1848.

Both buried in Solomon's churchyard near Forestville, Va.

Children of Sarah Branner and John Pence.

Michael Pence, b. Feb. 17, 1809, d. Oct. 4, 1838; m. Nancy Kerlin, b. Nov. 29, 1812; d. Oct. 20, 1838. They had four children.
Susan Pence, b. Feb. 2, 1811; d. Jan. 10, 1839; m. Michael Zirkle. They had two children.
Catherine Pence, b. Dec. 12, 1812; d. Nov. 7, 1845; m. John Peters. They had two children and lived near Forestville.
Lydia Pence died unmarried.
Harrison Pence died unmarried.
Jonathan Pence, b. Aug. ., 1818, d. Nov. 20, 1890, m. Sarah Zirkle. They lived near Forestville and had two children.
Sylvanus Pence never married.
Ambrose Pence never married.
Mary Pence m. John Fahrmoyers and lived near Mt. Jackson. They had ten children.
Sarah Pence, b. Sept. 19, 1825; m. Peter Myers, b. March 3, 1822. They have seven children and live near Forestville, Va.

JOHN BRANNER, b. May 29, 1791, d. April 1, 1859, married

ELIZABETH MOWRY, b. July 22, 1801; d. Dec. 6, 1870.

They lived on the old Casper Brunner homestead near Forestville, Shenandoah county, Va.

Children of John Brunner.

Silas Brunner, b. Nov. 18, 1821; d. Nov. 24, 1867; m. Nancy Estep. They lived near Forestville and had six children.
Josiah Brunner, b. Feb. 1, 1824; d. June 1, 1891; m. Elizabeth Archart, b. Jan. 7, 1838. Their six sons live with Mrs. Brunner near Timberville, Va.
Rebecca Brunner d. unmarried March 11, 1891.
Magdalene Brunner lives near Forestville, Va.
Sarah Brunner m. George Rinker and went to Ohio.
Anna Brunner d. unmarried in 1854.
Casper Brunner, b. April 20, 1835; d. Nov.? 1899; m. Margaret Stover, b. Oct. 18, 1834. They have five children and live on the original Fairfax land near Forestville, Va.
Philip Brunner, b. Dec. 2, 1836; d. Aug. 4, 1881; m. Mary Estep, b.?. They had three children and lived near Forestville, Va.
Elizabeth Brunner, b. Oct. 24, 1838; m. Jonathan F. Zirkle, b. May 10, 1831. They have four children and live near Forestville, Va.
Michael Brunner, b. Sept. 22, 1840, lives near Forestville, Va.
Catherine Brunner, b. Feb. 11, 1843, lives near Forestville, Va.
Sophia Brunner, b. Dec. 20, 1845, lives with her brother Michael near Forestville, Va.

Children of Lydia Harpine and George Easterly.

Abraham Easterly died at the age of fourteen.
Elizabeth Easterly, b. Febr. 9, 1810; d. Oct. 16, 1848; m. Cornelius Smelser. They lived in Green county, Tenn., and had five children.
Jonathan H. Easterly, b. April 24, 1811; d. Sept. 7, 1887; m. Catherine Renner. They had nine children and lived in Green county, Tenn. One of them, Mrs. Sallie Easterly Mitchell, of Caney Branch, Tenn., has furnished most of the information concerning the families of her father and grandfather.
Philip H. Easterly m. Elizabeth Neas. (Information lacking.)
Reuben M. Easterly m. Susan Malone. They had seven children and lived at Almeda, Green county, Tenn.
Ambrose G. Easterly m. Eliza Malone. They lived near Parrottsville, Tenn., and had nine children.
Rufus Easterly m. Annie Neas; no children.
Magdalene Easterly m. Benj. F. Neas; ten children.
Rachel Easterly m. John Reece; five children living in Cocke county, Tenn.

Children of Jonathan Harpine.

Abraham Harpine mar. Susan Zirkle. They lived near Moore's Store, Va., and had seven children.
Elizabeth Harpine m. George Bowman.
Catherine Harpine m. Moses Bowman.
Mary Harpine m. Jacob Long. They lived near Moore's Store, Va., and had five children.
Rebecca Harpine m. John Whitmire. They had four children.
Lydia Harpine m. David Fansler.
Philip Harpine m. Elizabeth Garber. They are said to have lived near Cowan Station, Rockingham county, Va.
Isaac Harpine m. Barbara Wine. They had twelve children, all of whom were born in Shenandoah county, Va. One of their sons, Joseph M. Harpine, of Moore's Store, has furnished much information concerning the family.
Jacob Harpine, b. May 11, 1823, lives near Moore's Store, Va.
Sarah Harpine, b. March 5, 1832, died unmarried March 31, 1866.

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